price support operation against the estimated total production of 37,000 bales in the State of Tripura i.e. 14.6%. JCI has been purchasing jute as and when prices fall below MSP

Restructuring of NIC Mills

2907. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to State :

(a)whether Government proposed to close non-viable mills, revive viable units and introduce Voluntar>' Retirement Scheme (VRS) for workers in the NTC mills; and

(b)if so, the progress made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) On the basis of a viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around plan for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them keeping in view the BIFR norms of net worth of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in mind. VRS is in operation in NTC. 61517 employees have taken VRS till 31-12-99.

Assets held by NHHDC. Guwahati

2908. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to State :

(a)the net share capital assets and list of immovable properties held by North-Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation indicating details, release of the share capital, purpose of release and utility made;

(b)whether the Guwahati office of the NHHDC is still maintained in the residential building of a flood prone area since inception or a proposal for outright purchase of an operational office at Guwahati was made; and

(c) if so, the location and detail plan finalised to utilise this operational area indicating action plan to activate this corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The total share capital of North-Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation (NHHDC) is